

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-21 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 15-18 are withdrawn; and

Claims 1, and 3-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,303,528 to Speit et al. ("Speit et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,040,953 to Matsuno et al. ("Matsuno et al.").

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

New claims 19-21 have been added to provide a more adequate basis of protection for the inventions of the present application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claims 1, and 3-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Speit et al. in view of Matsuno et al., is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 1, as amended, requires, in part:

A chemically strengthened glass substrate for an information recording medium,
...
wherein, on the surface on which the information recording layer is formed, the glass substrate comprises the following glass ingredients:
60 to 75 % by weight of SiO₂;
3 to 20 % by weight of Al₂O₃;
0 to 8 % by weight, zero inclusive, of B₂O₃;
...
SiO₂ + Al₂O₃ + B₂O₃ accounting for 63 to 90 % by weight;
....

The invention of claim 1 is a glass substrate in which, on the surface on which the information recording layer is formed, the glass substrate comprises ingredients including SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 and B_2O_3 in the claimed percentages (by weight). Forming the glass substrate using the claimed ingredients in the claimed percentages provides for stable formation of a strengthening layer with an appropriate thickness.

Speit is directed to a glass material for making rigid disk substrates and rigid disk substrates made from the glass material. Speit discloses, in column 2, line 46 to column 3, line 5 and in column 3, lines 18 through 34, two compositions of glass materials. However, these glass materials do not include 3-20% by weight of Al_2O_3 nor do they include $\text{SiO}_2 + \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ accounting for 63 to 90 % by weight as claimed in claim 1. Speit also discloses, in Table I, six different compositions of glass materials. However, none of these glass materials include 60-75% by weight of SiO_2 as claimed in claim 1. Therefore, Speit fails to disclose all the elements of claim 1 and cannot render claim 1 obvious.

Matsuno teaches a glass substrate that has been chemically strengthened. However, Matsuno fails to teach the glass composition required by claim 1. Therefore, Speit in combination with Matsuno fails to disclose all the limitations of claim 1 and cannot render claim 1 obvious.

Claims 3-14 depend from claim 1. Because claim 1 is considered to be non-obvious over Speit in view of Matsuno, claims 3-14 are also considered to be non-obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, and 3-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Speit et al. in view of Matsuno et al., be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of dependent claims by 2 from 11 to 14, but does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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